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## *A Little High-Handed*

CPYRGHT

The vast majority of Americans have learned to turn a deaf ear to claims of ultra-liberals and leftists that the Central Intelligence Agency is responsible for murders, wars and other dire deeds. Always lacking is the ingredient of proof.

But every American has the right to be highly incensed and deeply concerned about the incongruous and high-handed way the CIA and the federal judge flouted the law when a slander suit was dismissed in New York City.

The suit had been brought by Erik Heine, an Estonian emigre, against Juri Raus, another Estonian emigre. Heine charged that Raus had destroyed his reputation by calling him a Communist and Russian undercover agent.

The CIA entered the picture when it identified Raus as its agent and said

he did not have to testify. The judge supported the CIA by putting an end to the slander suit. He ruled that this agency can be just as high-handed as it pleases when it decides national security may be involved.

The implication of this ruling is frightening. Contrary to the popular belief that Americans live under a government of laws the CIA appears to stand outside the laws—intractable, despotic and sovereign. The ruling makes a myth of the belief that every individual has the right to a fair trial.

The question at stake is whether human rights should be destroyed in the effort or on the pretext of trying to save them. Despite the federal ruling, the correct answer should be the same as it always has been since Revolutionary days.